

Update

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 8 * SUMMER 2006



SAN FRANCISCO MINT COIN BILL BECOMES LAW

On June 15, HR 1953, the San Francisco Old Mint Commemorative Coin Act, legislation I sponsored with Senators Feinstein and Boxer, was signed into law. The Old Mint, known as the "Granite Lady," played a key role in the City's recovery from the 1906 Earthquake and Fire. It was the only financial institution able to operate immediately after the earthquake as the treasury for disaster relief funds. This law will allow the Treasury to mint commemorative coins to be sold, with the profits directed to the rehabilitation of the Old Mint by the San Francisco Museum and Historical Society.

July 2006

Dear Friend,

In June, we marked the tragic milestone of 2,500 U.S. troops killed and more than 18,000 injured in Iraq. Our prayers are with their families and with our brave men and women in uniform. In remembering each of those we lost, we also salute all of our men and women in uniform and their families for the sacrifices they make in service to our country.

The President has asked us to stay the course, despite the continued cost in lives, to our military readiness, and to our reputation in the world. I have been opposed to this war from the start, and on every aspect of this war, President Bush has been wrong. The President was wrong about the reason to go to war, wrong about the reception our troops would receive, wrong about the speed with which the Iraqi economy could finance reconstruction, and wrong about the willingness of the international community to join in efforts to stabilize Iraq.

We need a new direction in Iraq, one that would say to the Iraqi people: we will not be in your country indefinitely, we will not construct permanent bases, and we will not control the flow of your oil. There are two choices: to stay the course as suggested by President Bush, or Congressman John Murtha's plan to redeploy the troops at the earliest practicable date. I am proud to stand by Congressman Murtha's plan.

Americans know and Democrats in the Congress believe we also need a new direction at home. This includes a real plan for homeland security, as well as a plan to provide for the urgent, everyday needs of Americans, including affordable health care, accessible education, energy independence, economic security, and a dignified retirement.

Recently, we marked two anniversaries of events that shaped the spirit of San Francisco: the 100th anniversary of the 1906 Earthquake and Fire, and the 25th anniversary of the first diagnosis of HIV/AIDS. In each case, our community showed its resilience, banded together in moments of great difficulty, and emerged stronger than ever. I am proud to represent this extraordinary city in the Congress.

It is with a New Direction, one of honesty, civility and fiscal responsibility that the House of Representatives can best serve the needs of all the American people. I look forward to hearing from you on these and other issues of concern to you.

Sincerely,

Nancy

**REP. PELOSI CUTS THE RIBBON AT
THE OPENING OF THE CENTER FOR
IMAGING NEURODEGENERATIVE
DISEASES AT THE SAN FRANCISCO
VA MEDICAL CENTER.**



HIV/AIDS AT 25

LIVES LOST, LESSONS LEARNED, ENDING THE EPIDEMIC

DARFUR: A CHALLENGE TO THE CONSCIENCE OF THE WORLD

Earlier this year, I led a Congressional delegation to see firsthand the horrific conditions in Darfur, and to consult with heads of state in the region. The United States has characterized this crisis as genocide. We went to Darfur with a sense of deep concern and left with a sense of outrage.

The recent announcement of a peace accord was a welcome step, but the people of Darfur must not be kept waiting for implementation or for humanitarian aid. I am working with the Congressional Black Caucus to ensure the world community meets the challenge to conscience posed by Darfur.



**IN WASHINGTON, DC,
REP. PELOSI MEETS WITH
CITIZENS CONCERNED
ABOUT THE SITUATION
IN DARFUR.**

25 years ago this June, doctors first saw symptoms of the disease that would become known as AIDS. On this sad anniversary, we remember all that we have lost, but also the ways in which our city has come together and created a model of services for the nation, and even the world.

I remember those early days, when there was an almost total lack of information and escalating panic. In the subsequent years, when we lost so many friends and family members, we would often go to two funerals a day. When I first came to Congress in 1987, in my first statement on the House floor, I said I came to Congress to fight AIDS – and the entire City engaged in that fight. We were sad, and we were scared, but the respect and love San Franciscans felt for each other were channeled into community activism, research, care and prevention efforts.

AIDS deaths in San Francisco began to decline; HIV prevention efforts achieved some success; and the initiatives we instigated – the Ryan White CARE Act, Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS, the Minority AIDS Initiative, and the Global AIDS Initiative – helped to ease the pain of many.

As we began to succeed in stopping the spread of AIDS, we were also determined never to forget. The AIDS Memorial Quilt and the National AIDS Memorial Grove ensure that we will always remember those we lost to the disease.

As we discovered the drugs that could prevent death and as we succeeded with prevention efforts, the pandemic swept through the rest of the world, making orphans of so many children and taking a terrible toll on lives and hopes of people in developing countries. A recent trip to South Africa made it clear to me how much work we must do, and also how San Francisco's early efforts served as a model for the world in the fight against this disease.

Congress recently began the reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act. Our commitment to ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic must include sufficient funding for health care and resources for all Americans who are living with this disease.

A NEW DIRECTION FOR AMERICA



strengthening family and community. But too many here and across our nation are paying the price for the Republican Congressional majority's special interest agenda, and struggling under burdens such as gas prices, college tuition and an inadequate national minimum wage. Democrats in Congress have a New Direction for America, with bold initiatives that meet the needs of all Americans.

A New Direction for America means:

- Making America safer, and we will begin by enacting into law the recommendations of the independent 9/11 Commission on the first day of the new Congress;
- Affordable health care for Americans, and we will begin by fixing the prescription drug law so it puts seniors ahead of pharmaceutical companies and HMOs;
- Ending our dependence on foreign oil, and we will start by promoting alternatives including biofuels that send our energy dollars to our Midwest instead of the Middle East;
- Addressing the soaring costs of higher education to make college education more affordable by making tuition tax deductible and cutting the costs of student loan interest rates in half;
- Ensuring a dignified retirement for all Americans, by renewing our pledge in light of new Republican threats: No privatization of Social Security; and
- Creating good-paying jobs here at home instead of shipping jobs overseas, and we will begin by raising the minimum wage and committing to research and innovation.



Hope and optimism have always defined the American spirit. San Franciscans are driven by our tradition of expanding opportunity, and

DO YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH A FEDERAL AGENCY OR OBTAINING YOUR FEDERAL BENEFITS?

As your Representative in Congress, it is my privilege to provide you with a variety of services, such as assistance with the following federal agencies:

- Social Security, SSI and Medicare
- Internal Revenue Service
- Public Housing
- Student Loans
- Veterans Benefits
- Federal Employees
- Military Personnel
- Postal Service
- Immigration, Citizenship, Visa & Passport Services
- Federal Prisons

For more information or to make an appointment with a caseworker, please call (415) 556-4862 or email me at sf.nancy@mail.house.gov. You may also visit my San Francisco district office in the Phillip and Sala Burton Federal Building at 450 Golden Gate Avenue on the 14th Floor.



**REP. PELOSI MEETS
WITH MEMBERS OF THE
SAN FRANCISCO COMMUNITY
CLINIC CONSORTIUM
TO DISCUSS THE HEALTH
CARE NEEDS OF SAN
FRANCISCANS.**



**CONGRESSWOMAN
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1906 EARTHQUAKE CENTENNIAL

SALUTING OUR CITY'S REBIRTH, PREPARING FOR FUTURE EMERGENCIES

On April 18 at dawn, I joined with thousands of San Franciscans to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 1906 Earthquake and Fire. It was a beautiful opportunity to salute the pioneer spirit that propelled the people of San Francisco to rebuild our city bigger, better, and stronger than it had been before.

It was also an opportunity to ask whether we are prepared in the event of another natural or man-made disaster.

Reporting on the 1906 Earthquake, a newspaper wrote, "A miracle was wrought. Discipline was restored in a day; orderly government was established in a week; relief was organized almost before there was hunger to assuage; reorganization was planned before the destruction was complete, and begun before the ashes grew cold."

This was certainly not the case in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, and it has not been the case after September 11. Our nation has not been made as safe as it should be. Ninety-five percent of all the containers coming into our ports are not

screened. We have not invested adequately in our public health structure to prepare and protect America from biological terrorism or the avian flu. We still have not provided our first responders with the training, equipment and technology they need.

I have called for the removal of FEMA from the Department of Homeland Security, to be established as an independent agency so it can be given the authority and resources needed to handle disasters.

Democrats in the House have announced our plan for Real Security; tough and smart policies to keep the American people safe. We will introduce legislation in the House to implement the independent and bipartisan 9/11 Commission recommendations to secure national borders, ports, airports and mass transit. We will screen 100% of containers and cargo bound for the U.S. in ships or airplanes. We will provide firefighters, police officers, emergency workers, and other frontline personnel with the training, equipment and technology they need. We will make America safer.

Nancy Pelosi

M.C.
PRESORTED STANDARD